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Harvard College Library

FROM

Pennsylvania
State Library



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BULLETIN No. 1.

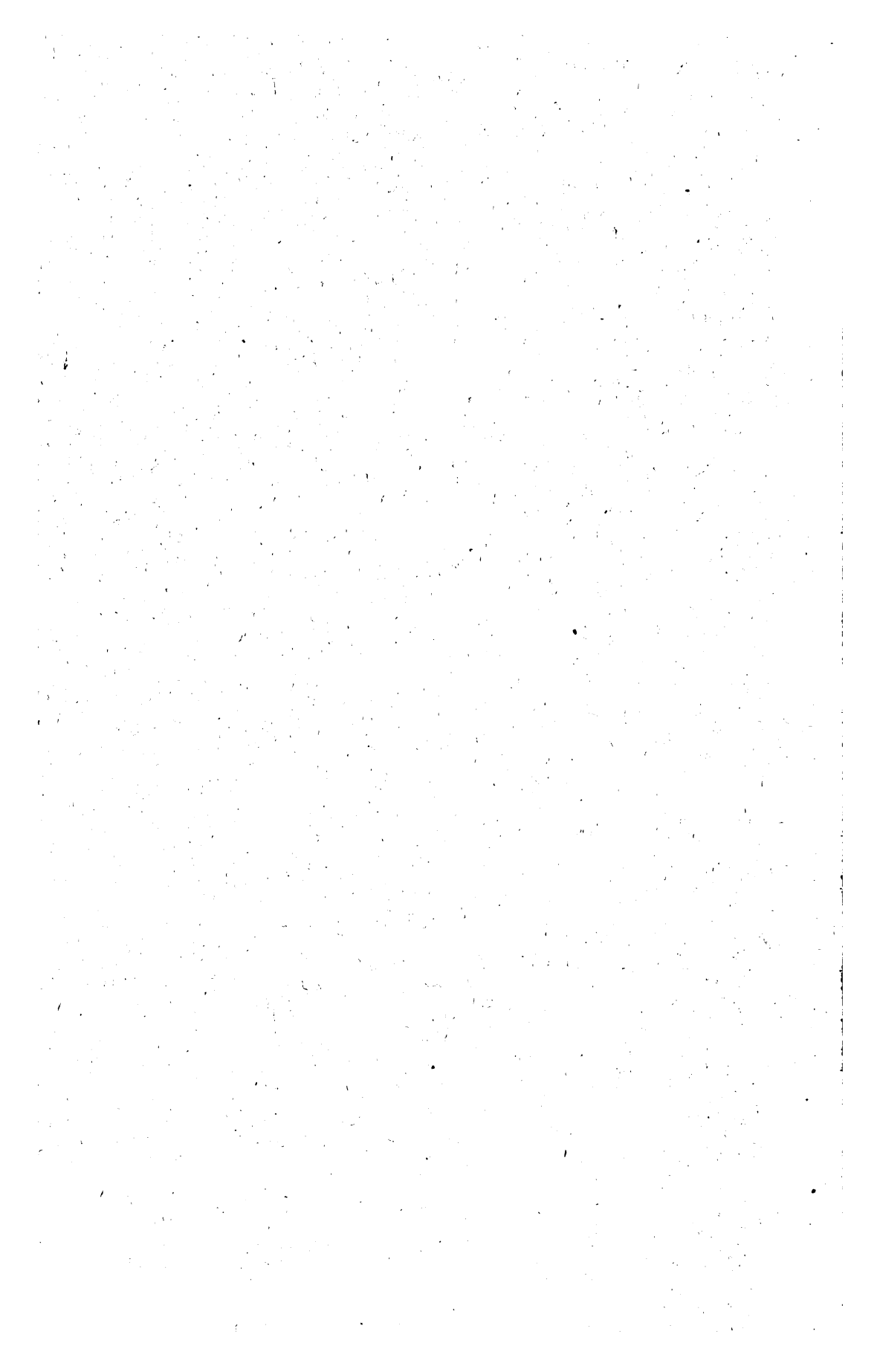
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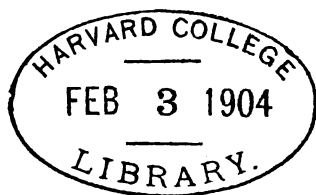
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IV. 6730



State Library



AIDS
IN
BOOK SELECTION,

BY
SARAH W. CATTELL and ALICE B. KROEGER,
Drexel Institute, Philadelphia.



AIDS IN BOOK SELECTION.

By SARAH W. CATTELL and ALICE B. KROEGER.

The problem of book selection is one of the most vital and perplexing that confronts the librarian. It is becoming each year increasingly difficult owing to the enormous annual output of the American, English and continental presses. To the small library of five or ten thousand volumes, with a very modest income to expend for the purchase of books, the problem is peculiarly difficult, and it is evident that the librarian must be thoroughly familiar with the best available aids in selection in order to make the wisest use of his limited resources and secure for his library the best books on each subject, or, at least, those best suited to the needs of his community.

The proportion that should be maintained in a library between the respective subjects is another phase of the question that perplexes the inexperienced. While this proportion will naturally vary in some points, according to the locality and the character of the library, the general principles as laid down in the scale adopted for the A. L. A. model library of 5,000 volumes, will prove desirable in most cases.

The following suggestions are made for the benefit of small libraries, many of which are organized by young women of limited experience in library matters. The more extended or technical bibliographies, necessary to the work of selection and ordering in larger libraries, are purposely omitted, our aim being to mention some of the most practical aids and those most easily obtained. Even so, the list may seem formidable to the beginner unless he remembers that no one library will need all the aids referred to.

It must be borne in mind that there are two classes of bibliographies and lists useful in the selection of books; the one which, by its annotations, evaluates the books, and aids the librarian in deciding upon the respective merits of works on a given subject; the other, giving only or mainly bibliographical details, such as edition, binding, price and publisher. Then, again, some of these aids are useful only in the original stocking of the shelves or in supplying the gaps in the old standard works on a given subject, while others give information only in regard to current publications. Each class of aids is necessary to supplement the other.

GENERAL LISTS.

Among the general works covering all subjects should be mentioned the "List of books for girls and women and their clubs," edited by Leypoldt & Iles (Bost., Library bureau, 1895, paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.00). The title of this work is somewhat misleading, the books included in the list being equally suitable for boys and men. It is classified and is of value to the small library on account of its limited and careful selection, and its discriminating annotations. Another valuable aid is the "A. L. A. catalog of 5,000 volumes" (Washington, Bureau of education, 1893, free).^{*} This might well serve as a check list for any new library, although some of the books included are now out of print.

Two lists, still more recent and selected, have been issued, one in Wisconsin, by the State superintendent of public instruction, entitled "List of books for township libraries" (Madison, Wis., 1902, free), and the other by the State library commissions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Idaho, entitled "Suggestive list of books for a small library," with their supplementary "Buying lists of recent books" (free on application to any of the commissions); also the supplement to the Suggestive list, Jan., 1902—June, 1903. The supplement contains also a list for larger libraries. In its Second report, 1901, the New Jersey public library commission issued a list, compiled by Dr. E. C. Richardson, of the "First one thousand books for a public library." For general selection, one might also consult with profit the annual list issued by the N. Y. state library, e. g., "Best books of the year," annotated, and that issued by the Western Massachusetts library club entitled "The current year's best books for small libraries to buy" (annotated). The annotated catalogues of the Booklovers library might be suggested here for recent books.

Some of the publishers have also issued general lists useful in this connection, such as the Baker & Taylor Co.'s "Standard library catalogue of 2,500 approved books," and the one recently issued by McClurg & Co., a "Classified catalogue of 3,500 volumes

^{*}A new revised A. L. A. catalog is in preparation.

suitable for a public library, proportioned in accordance with approved library methods." Both of these lists (sent free) are classified; they are selected from the lists of all publishers, and give prices, but not the names of the publishers of the individual books.

The volumes compiled by Sonnenschein, "Best books," and "Reader's guide to contemporary literature" (N. Y., Putnam, 1891 & 1895, \$9.00 and \$7.50), while standard and valuable for their classification and annotations, are expensive volumes to purchase. Then, too, they cover a very wide field and include many books and editions which the small library would find it difficult to obtain. The best books on each subject are, however, starred, thus narrowing the selection and making the list more practical.

Sonnenschein, Best books and Reader's guide.

Perkins's "Best reading" (N. Y., Putnam, 1877, \$1.50), with the three supplementary volumes by L. E. Jones (N. Y., Putnam, 1887-93, \$1.00 each), bringing the list down to 1891, are classified, and while not annotated are somewhat evaluated both as to books and authors by the use of asterisks and letters.

Perkins, Best reading.

TRADE BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

The complete set of the large volumes of the American catalogue would be too expensive for the ordinary small library to purchase, and while very desirable to have, there are now other lists, notably the new Index to the "Publishers' trade list annual," which can be made to serve all ordinary needs. It would be advisable, if practicable, to consult some of the "Annual American catalogues" from 1886 to 1900 (N. Y., Office of the Publishers' weekly, \$3.50 each), on account of their descriptive notes. Beginning with 1901, these notes are omitted, so that the information now given, i. e., the list of authors, with brief title and subject index, and bibliographical details, can practically be found in the annual summary number of the "Publishers' weekly," published in January each year. The "United States catalog of books in print to 1902" (Minneapolis, Wilson, 1903, \$15.00), authors, titles, subjects in one alphabet, gives brief bibliographical details and is useful in finding out if specified books are still obtainable. But the index published now with the "Publishers' trade

Annual American catalogues.

U. S. catalog of books in print.

Publishers' trade
list annual.

list annual" practically does away with the need for the "United States catalog," where economy is necessary, as it gives substantially, although not identically, the same information. The "Publishers' trade list annual," published in August each year (N. Y. Office of the Publishers' weekly, \$7.00 with the index, \$2.00 without), would be almost indispensable in any library. This contains the annual lists issued by all American publishers, arranged alphabetically by the names of the publishers. These lists usually include the books in print, but in some cases only the new publications. They frequently have useful annotations.

Reference cata-
logue of current
literature.

Annual English
catalogue.

The English trade bibliographies will not usually be needed in the small library, since many of the most popular and important English books are imported by the American publishers and are mentioned as importations in their catalogues, and also in the "Publishers' weekly," and can easily be obtained here. If, however, it seems desirable to make a more extended selection of English works than this would permit, it would be advisable to have the "Reference catalogue of current literature" (Lond., Whitaker, or N. Y. Office of Publishers' weekly, 1902, 2v. \$1.75 each), which corresponds to the "Publishers' trade list annual," and also such volumes of the "Annual English catalogue" (Lond., Low, \$1.50 each), as would be necessary to supplement that.

PUBLISHERS' CATALOGUES AND BULLETINS.

Publishers' gen-
eral catalogues.

It is often convenient, for the purpose of checking up, to have in separate form the publishers' lists which are included in the "Publishers' trade list annual," and these can be had free upon application to the individual publishers. We would advise sending for the lists of such reliable and well-known firms as Appleton, Century Co., Harper, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Longmans, Green & Co., McClurg, Macmillan, Putnam, Scribner, etc. In the Dial, for May 1, 1900, will be found a brief "Directory of the American publishing trade," an alphabetical list of the publishers, stating, among other things, the special line of books published by the respective firms. So far as we know, however, there is no published information that will make the uninitiated acquainted with the standards of these houses. The librarian will have to learn by ex-

perience what publishers beyond the few of long established reputation can be relied upon for the literary quality and mechanical excellence of their publications.

Many publishers, such as Appleton, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Macmillan, Scribner, etc., in addition to their general catalogues, issue special classed lists. Under the special subjects to follow, reference will be made to some of the publishers' catalogues that seem particularly useful in connection with the subject. Some publishers also issue annotated monthly lists or weekly bulletins, which are most desirable to have, as, for instance, Macmillan's, Longmans', and Brentano's monthly lists and Harper's, Macmillan's, and Scribner's weekly bulletins. The Macmillan Co. issues printed cards of its publications, containing brief annotations, which are convenient to file away for reference. One must remember, however, in using publishers' catalogues and bulletins that their critical estimates of their own publications must not always be accepted without further endorsement from other sources.

Publishers' special lists.

Publishers' bulletins, monthly and weekly.

AUCTION AND SECOND-HAND BOOKSELLERS' CATALOGUES.

In buying books for a public library it is necessary to economize in order to make the appropriation—which is usually limited—buy as many books as possible. Something can be saved by purchasing at auction and at second-hand book stores. It is, therefore, necessary to read "second-hand catalogues," which keep one familiar with the market prices of second-hand books, and also to glance over auction catalogues, which frequently suggest books that are needed. Of course, in buying at second-hand, one must be careful to see that books are in good condition. Standard works can usually be obtained in reasonably fresh bindings, showing but little wear, and sometimes they are as good as new. With fiction, however, closer supervision must be exercised, as it does not pay to buy novels that have been much handled.

Buying at second hand is most satisfactorily done by personal visits to the book stores, where one can select from the shelves such books as may be needed.

Auction cata-
logues, Anderson
Co., N. Y.; C. F.
Libbie & Co.,
Bost.

The auction catalogues of The Anderson Co., of New York, and of C. F. Libbie & Co., of Boston, can be obtained at a nominal charge for the year. These firms can be relied upon to send books in good condition unless otherwise specified in their catalogues.

The successful selector is one who has acquired the "catalogue habit" or "catalogitis," so delightfully described by Eugene Field, in his "Love affairs of a bibliomaniac." It is only by perusing catalogues of various kinds that one can attain that fine sense of discrimination so essential to the wise selection of books for a library.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND FINDING LISTS.

A few good printed catalogues and finding lists are a part of the necessary equipment of every library, and can sometimes be used to advantage in making up lists for purchase. By comparing, in five or six catalogues of the smaller libraries, the lists of works on a given subject, one can gain a fair idea of some of the standard works that ought to be selected. In starting a new library the author lists may be helpful, particularly in the case of fiction or other works in literature, as reminders of the authors who should be represented in any well-selected library. The "Class catalogue of the Osterhout library," (Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 1889, Supplement, 1895, each \$2.00), and the Finding lists of the Salem public library might be mentioned as examples of such helps. Many libraries publish monthly bulletins which are useful in showing the current purchases of the different libraries. When these are annotated, as in the case of the "Monthly bulletin," issued by the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, they are very suggestive.

Osterhout library
catalogue.

Salem public li-
brary finding list.

Carnegie library,
Pittsburgh,
Monthly bulletin.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The question of book-reviewing has been so much discussed of late and has called forth such varied opinions as to the respective merits of our literary reviews, in regard to their practical usefulness to the librarian, that we hesitate to recommend any particular journals. It might be well to refer on this

point to the individual preferences for certain reviews expressed by some of our prominent librarians in a series of articles on the selection of books, given at the Lake Placid conference in 1894, and published in the conference number of the "Library journal" for that year.

Probably all librarians will agree that the "Publishers' weekly" (N. Y., 298 Broadway, \$3.00 per year), is almost essential in every library of a few thousand volumes. While this is not really a critical review, it is valuable for its descriptive and explanatory notes, as well as for its official and up-to-date records of all books published in America, and it seems fitting to mention it in connection with the periodicals needed for selection of current publications. Perhaps the best weekly review is the "Nation" (N. Y. Evening Post publishing co., \$3.00 per year). Many librarians consider the "Dial," a semi-monthly journal (Chicago, \$2.00 per year), as one of the best general reviews, while others find much that is helpful in such monthly periodicals as the "Critic" (N. Y., Putnam, \$2.00 per year), the "Bookman" (N. Y., Dodd, Mead & Co., \$2.00 per year), the "Lamp" (N. Y., Scribner, \$1.50 per year) and "Book news" (Phil., Wanamaker, 50 cents per year).

Publishers' weekly.

American reviews.
Nation.

Dial.

Critic.

Bookman.

Lamp.

If an English review is desired it would be well to take the "Spectator," weekly (Lond., 26s.), which corresponds somewhat in scope and standards to our American periodical the "Nation," or the "Athenæum," weekly (Lond., 13 s.), which is devoted exclusively to literature, science and fine arts.

English reviews.

Spectator.

Athenæum.

The busy librarian has little time in selecting his books to hunt up reviews of individual works, but occasionally it is necessary to do it, and for this purpose the "Cumulative index" to periodicals (Minneapolis, H. W. Wilson Co., \$6.00 per year), and the new "Quarterly bibliography of books reviewed in leading periodicals" (Index publishing co., Bloomington, Ind., \$1.50 per year), are useful, though the latter has the disadvantage of its infrequent appearance.

Indexes to reviews.

Cumulative index.

Quarterly bibliography (cumulative).

SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

In addition to the general aids already given there are many special bibliographies and lists that should

be mentioned under their specific subjects. These might be used in some cases to supplement the foregoing lists, in others they should be used as the original basis of selection. It must be remembered, too, that some of these lists were published a few years ago and must, therefore, be supplemented by others of more recent date, and by the records of current publications, or, if possible, by the personal examination of new books. It will be noticed that no aids have been suggested for some general classes, like philosophy or philology. There were none that seemed desirable to refer to for this particular purpose, the general aids furnishing all that the small library would usually need. Law and medicine have also been omitted, for the technical works on these subjects do not properly belong in the small general library, and such popular books as would be needed are included in the general lists.

Travelling library lists.

N. Y. State library, Bulletins of bibliography.

Some useful lists covering a wide range of special subjects too numerous to be mentioned in detail, are the "N. Y. State Traveling library lists," which have been selected and annotated with great care. The bibliographies compiled by the students of the N. Y. state library school, and issued by the N. Y. state library in its "Bulletins of bibliography," contain some excellent lists on subjects of general interest, although many of them are too special to be recommended in this connection.

BIOGRAPHY.

Carnegie library list of biographies.

A. L. A. catalog.

An annotated "List of one hundred entertaining biographies" (2 cents) was published by the Carnegie library, Pittsburg, in 1902. Consult also pages 1-19 of the "A. L. A. catalog."

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.

This general term must be understood to include the reading suitable for boys and girls in the higher grades of our grammar schools, as well as for the smaller children. Lists of books for young people are almost as numerous as the libraries themselves, but a few of these stand out as pre-eminently helpful in selection by reason of the acknowledged experience

of their compilers and the discriminating notes that accompany them. Of these should be mentioned the well-known Sargent's "Reading for the young," 1890, with its Supplement, 1896 (Bost. Library Bureau, \$1.50). This, however, is out of print and the A. L. A. has under consideration the publication of an entirely new and up-to-date list. A much briefer list than Sargent's and, therefore, more practically useful to the small library, is one of the A. L. A. annotated lists, "Books for boys and girls," compiled by Miss Hewins (Bost. Library bureau, 1897, 10 cents); this contains about 300 titles. Another useful list, although this, too, is out of print, is the "Graded and annotated catalogue of the books in the Carnegie library of Pittsburg for the use of the city schools, 1900."

Sargent, Reading for the young.

Hewins, Books for boys and girls.

Carnegie library, Graded and annotated list for schools.

In addition to these might be mentioned some lists compiled with special reference to school libraries, such as the "N. Y. state library class list of a \$500 library recommended for schools, 1901" (15 cents); "List of books for high school libraries of the state of Wisconsin," issued by the State superintendent of public instruction (1900, free); "Class-room libraries for public schools," issued by the Buffalo public library (1899, 38 cents), and "List of books in the school reference collection" issued by the Public library of Brookline, Mass (1902). Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Scribner, Longmans and other publishers issue useful annotated lists for this purpose.*

N. Y. State list of a \$500 library for schools.

Wisconsin list for high schools.

Buffalo library list for public schools.

Brookline public library school reference collection.

Publishers' school lists.

A very practical method of selecting juvenile works is to visit, occasionally, some of the large libraries in neighboring cities where special attention is paid to the children's department, and find out what books the children are actually reading and enjoying.

As the organizer of a library is sometimes called upon for help and advice in the selection of books for the Sunday-school library, it may not be out of place to refer here to a little manual which considers the whole question of Sunday-school libraries, and includes a list of aids for the selection of such literature: "The librarian of the Sunday-school," by E. L. Foote, with a chapter on the Sunday-school library, by M. T. Wheeler (N. Y., Eaton & Mains, 1897, 35 cents).

Sunday school libraries.

*D. C. Heath & Co., has an interesting list entitled Right reading for children, compiled by Charles Welsh (1903).

DOCUMENTS.

U. S. Check list of public documents and Monthly catalogue of documents.

State documents.

Handbook of library commission of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin; government publications of value in small library.

The U. S. government publishes many valuable monographs of general interest, as, for example, the bulletins on foods issued by the Department of agriculture, and if it seems desirable for the small library to make any selection of these government documents it might be well to have the "Check list of public documents," also the "Monthly catalogue of U. S. public documents," both issued by the Superintendent of documents, Washington, and sent free upon application. The small library will not be likely to need many of the state documents beyond a few of the reports issued by the departments of agriculture, education, labor, etc. Information concerning these can be obtained directly from the respective departments in the various states,* "The hand-book of library organization," compiled by the Library commissions of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, 1902, contains some very practical suggestions in regard to the government publications of special value in town libraries, by L. C. Ferrell.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

N. Y. State library, Bulletin on domestic economy.

Books recommended by the Home science publishing co.

The N. Y. state library has issued as one of its Bulletins of bibliography, a "Bibliography of domestic economy," compiled by R. K. Shaw (15 cents). This is a comprehensive and classified list, with occasional brief annotations, and aims to include all books on this subject in the English language published between 1850 and 1899.

More important for the small library, however, is a brief list of books recommended by the Home science publishing co., Boston (free). This is a careful selection, from the works of different publishers, of the best and most up-to-date books on the subject, and can safely be used in selection.

EDUCATION.

Monroe, Bibliography of education.

Several good bibliographies of this subject have been issued, but Monroe's "Bibliography of education," in the International education series (N. Y., Appleton,

*In Pennsylvania from the State Library.

1897, \$2.00), would probably be the best one for the small library to use. A classified list of the educational books of the year, compiled by J. I. Wyer, Jr., & I. E. Lord, appears annually in the "Educational review." It is desirable to remember also the Educational number of the "Publishers' weekly," which comes out each year in July. Some of the most important publishers of educational works whose lists should be consulted are: American book co., Ginn, Heath, Holt, Macmillan, Appleton, Longmans, & Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Wyer & Lord,
Bibliography of
education, annual
list.

Educational num-
ber of Publishers'
weekly.

Publishers' educa-
tional catalogues.

ELECTRICITY.

In addition to the lists on electricity to be found in the general lists on science, it might be well to call attention to some of the special publishers of electrical literature. The "Electrical world and engineer" of N. Y., also the W. J. Johnston Co., of N. Y., issue classed catalogues of electrical books, the former being annotated. "The monthly record of scientific literature," published by Van Nostrand (25 cents per year), should not be forgotten. A brief list that would be of use to the small library is the one compiled by the Buffalo public library, revised and issued in 1902 by the N. Y. state library association as one of its co-operative lists (15 cents a hundred); also, printed in Public libraries for December, 1901.

Publications of
the Electrical
world and engi-
neer, N. Y.
W. J. Johnston
Co., N. Y.

Van Nostrand's
Monthly record of
scientific litera-
ture.

Buffalo Library,
brief list.

FICTION.

For the selection of fiction we would suggest the sections on that subject in Leypoldt & Iles' "Books for girls and women and their clubs," which has excellent annotations and includes suggestions as to why certain authors are not approved, the "A. L. A. catalog" and Sonnenschein's "Best books" and "Readers' guide," which have already been spoken of. The "Author-title catalogue of English prose fiction" of the Buffalo public library (25 cents), might prove suggestive because the novels and stories selected for their open shelves, presumably the best, are indicated.

Leypoldt & Iles.

A. L. A. catalog.
Sonnenschein,
Best books and
Readers' guide.

Buffalo library,
Catalogue of Eng-
lish prose fiction.

For the selection of French novels get the "List of French fiction," compiled by Sophie Cornu & William Beer (Bost. Library bureau, 1898, 10 cents). This is one of the A. L. A. annotated lists.

Cornu & Beer,
French fiction.

Wisconsin commission, List of German books.

The Wisconsin free library commission publishes a list of one hundred popular German books.*

FINE ARTS.

Sturgis, Bibliography of fine arts.

Hitchcock, List on fine and decorative arts.

The "Annotated bibliography of fine art," compiled by Russell Sturgis (Bost. Library bureau, 1897, paper 50 cents, cloth \$1.00), and a "List of books on fine and decorative arts suggested for small public libraries," compiled by Grace A. Hitchcock (see Public libraries, January, 1902), are recommended for this subject. A more recent list for the small library is that issued by the Wisconsin free library commission, Sept., 1903, in its Bibliography bulletin, No. 8.

HISTORY.

Adams, Manual of historical literature.

Leyboldt & Iles.

Larned, Literature of American history.

The only general guide to historical works is Adams's "Manual of historical literature" (N. Y., Harper, 1889, \$2.50). This is invaluable for its critical and descriptive notes, as well as for the general summary of authorities given at the end of each section. This work must now be supplemented by later lists. The section on history in the Leyboldt & Iles' list, which is annotated by R. G. Thwaites, would be particularly helpful to the small library. The new "Literature of American history," edited for the A. L. A., by J. N. Larned (Bost., Houghton, 1902, \$6.00, with its Supplement for 1900-1901. 1902, \$1.00) is, of course, the authoritative work on that subject. At the end of the volume will be found suggestions in regard to some of the more important and popular books suitable for school and town libraries.

LITERATURE.

Literature seems too comprehensive a subject to be confined to the limits of any definite lists, and the task of selection, with such an embarrassment of riches is difficult in the extreme. Still, there are certain great authors and individual books that it is generally agreed should claim a place from the start in every well-selected library. From time to time various attempts have been made to formulate a list

*The Springfield city library has prepared a list of "Cheerful books," which will be found very useful when books with pleasant endings are desired.

of some of the world's greatest masterpieces in literature, such as the ones drawn up by Sir John Lubbock, in his "Pleasures of life," and by James Baldwin, in "The Book-lover." One of the most noteworthy and practical experiments of this kind has been that of Mr. Foster, of the Providence public library, in his selection of 1,000 volumes of the "literature of power," which he has placed in a separate room and called the Standard library. Copies of this list may be obtained by applying to the library. While the editions he specifies might not in all cases be suitable for a small library, the list of authors and their works are most suggestive.

Lists of masterpieces in literature, Sir John Lubbock's & James Baldwin's.

Providence public library, list of 1,000 volumes.

General lists already mentioned, such as Sonnenschein, A. L. A. catalog, Leyboldt & Iles, as well as library catalogues, must also be consulted. The A. L. A. catalog is always a useful guide to good library editions of the works of standard authors. In this connection we would refer to the series of lists on the Best editions of various prominent authors published at intervals in the Bulletin of bibliography.* A catalogue of the Tauchnitz edition of British authors is likewise very useful, and this could be obtained through importers of foreign books.

Sonnenschein, Best books and Readers' guide. Leyboldt & Iles, A. L. A. catalog.

Best editions of standard authors.

Tauchnitz edition.

For the selection of French and German literature (see also under Fiction), the lists of such publishers as Christern, Stechert, Jenkins and Brentano can be used to advantage. The catalogues issued by Lemcke and Buechner, successors to Westermann & Co., N. Y., are particularly useful because of their classification and evaluation of the books and the brief but excellent summaries of periods and of authors.

French and German literature.

Publishers of foreign works.

Mayor's "Guide to the choice of classical books" (Lond., Bell, 1879, \$1.00; Supplement, Lond., Nutt, 1896, \$2.00), is valuable in choosing suitable editions of the Greek and Latin classics. It should be remembered that Macmillan handles the Clarendon press series and Bohn editions (translations) of the classics, and that Longmans also publishes good editions of the classics.

Mayor, Guide to classical books.

Publishers of standard editions of the classics.

MUSIC.

In the selection of books on the history and theory of music, the most helpful lists to the small library

*Published by the Boston book co., Boston.

Krehbiel's list on musical literature.

Scribner's list.

Catalogues of publishers of music.

would probably be the one edited by H. E. Krehbiel, in the Sturgis bibliography of fine art, and an annotated list on "Musical literature," issued by Scribner (free). For the selection of scores one would need the catalogues of such publishers of music as Novello, Ewer & Co., Schirmer, Meyer, and Breitkopf & Härtel.

NATURE BOOKS.

List in Bookbuyer.
Publishers' lists.

A short classified list of some 140 titles, appended to an article on the subject by James B. Carrington, may be found in the "Bookbuyer" for April, 1901. Ginn, Scribner, Putnam and other publishers issue attractive little lists of their out-of-door books, and in many library bulletins will be found suggestive reading lists on the various specific branches of the subject, such as birds, trees, flowers, insects, etc.

PERIODICALS.

List of popular periodicals in Osterhout library catalogue and in Library primer.

Periodical agencies, Brentano and Subscription news co.

In making up the list of periodicals to be ordered for a reading room it is well to consult the lists of periodicals taken by such libraries as the Osterhout. A short selected list is given in Dana's "Library primer." For items such as price and usual discount to libraries, necessary in ordering these periodicals, it is advisable to have the catalogues of two or three periodical agencies, such as the Subscription news co. (Chicago & N. Y.), or Brentano, both of whom are agents for American and foreign newspapers and magazines.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Soule art co. catalogue.

N. Y. state library, list on travelling pictures.

For selecting and ordering photographs a library should have, if possible (although it is almost too expensive for a very small library), the Complete art reference catalogue of the Soule art co. (Bost., 1902, \$5.00). This is an alphabetical list of artists, with the titles of their works, the galleries where these are to be found, the sizes and prices of the photographs or prints, and also numerous illustrations. In one of its Home education bulletins the N. Y. state library has issued a pamphlet on Traveling pictures and school room decoration (Albany, 1900, 50 cents), in

which is given a list of 100 pictures suitable for high schools. An illustration of each picture is given with full descriptive notes and details in regard to publisher, size and style of reproduction, but not the price.

REFERENCE BOOKS.

"A guide to the study and use of reference books," compiled by Alice B. Kroeger and published by the A. L. A. (Bost., Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1902, \$1.25), is a classified, annotated and priced bibliography and covers the subject more fully than any list which has yet appeared. It contains, also, a suggestive list of the first one hundred reference books desirable for the ordinary library. Dana's "Library primer" has a list of about seventy-five reference books suitable for a small library, while Miss Plummer condenses the list still more by suggesting, in her "Hints to small libraries," the first twenty-five, and then the second twenty-five reference books to purchase.

Kroeger, Guide to reference books.

Lists of reference books in Dana's Library primer and Plummer's Hints to small libraries.

RELIGION.

A suitable special guide to the selection of religious works for a small library is difficult to find. Some suggestions can be obtained from an annotated and priced list of twenty pages in Sunderland's "The Bible; its origin, growth and character" (N. Y., Putnam, 1893, \$1.50). This list, however, is mainly of books for Biblical study, and does not include works on other religious subjects. Among the most prominent publishers of religious books should be mentioned Revell, Whittaker, American tract society and the various denominational boards, like the American Baptist publication society, the Methodist book concern (Eaton & Mains, N. Y. and Jennings & Pye, Cincinnati), the Presbyterian board of publication, the Congregational Sunday-school and publication society (Pilgrim press) and others.

Annotated list in Sunderland's The Bible.

Religious and denominational publishing houses.

SCIENCE AND USEFUL ARTS.

Such rapid strides are being made in the progress of science and its practical applications that lists of

Wisconsin list on science and engineering.

Van Nostrand's Monthly record of scientific literature.

Publishers of scientific and technical works.

books on these subjects are very soon out of date. It is, therefore, difficult to suggest any standard aids that are not open to this objection. The Wisconsin free library commission has issued a list of Books on science and engineering suggested for small public libraries (Madison, 1901, free).^{*} The Van Nostrand "Monthly record of scientific literature", also their general catalogue should be remembered; also, other scientific publishers, such as Wiley, for technical works, Appleton for natural sciences, Munn, and Longmans for general scientific and technical works, and Comstock for architectural, scientific, industrial and technical works.

SOCIOLOGY.

Bowker & Iles, Readers' guide.

The "Readers' guide in economic, social and political science," compiled by Bowker & Iles (N. Y. Society for political education, 1891, paper 50 cents, cloth \$1.00), is a classified bibliography with descriptive notes and is the standard work on that subject. This would probably be all that the small library would need for selection of works published up to 1891, and it may be supplemented by the selected lists of books on sociology and economics issued by the Wisconsin free library commission, 1902-03.

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION.

A. L. A. Catalog, Leypoldt & Iles, Sonnenschein, Best books and Readers' guide, N. Y. State traveling library lists.

There are no special lists to recommend on this subject, but the sections devoted to it in some of the general lists, especially the A. L. A. catalog, the Leypoldt & Iles' "List of books for girls and women," Sonnenschein and some of the N. Y. state traveling library lists would give all the necessary material.

Articles on the selection of books.

In conclusion, we would suggest, as excellent discussions of the general principles of book selection, the article in the A. L. A. world's library congress papers, the chapters devoted to the selection and ordering of books in Dana's "Library primer" and Plummer's "Hints to small libraries," an article by Elizabeth F Andrews in the conference number of the Librarian journal for 1897, and one by Mr. Brett, of the Cleveland public library, in the Bulletin of the Iowa library commission for January, 1902.

^{*}Also a selected list of books on physics, 1902.

